

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the invention. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. No new matter is believed added.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,572,394 (Ker et al.), and claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ker et al. These rejections are defective because Ker et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

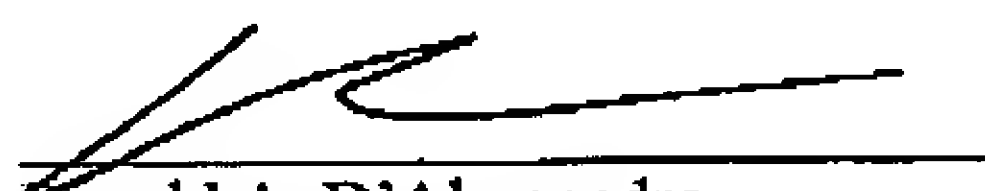
In response to the previous rejection, Applicants stated on page 5 that "Ker fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed first and second zones and gated diode having a gate, wherein the second zone is 'aligned to this gate' and 'the said second zone stretches out only along a part of the periphery of the well, the first zone is provided along at least another part of this periphery of the well which is free from the said second zone...'". To this extent, "[w]here the applicant traverses any rejection, the examiner should, if he or she repeats the rejection, take note of the applicant's argument and answer the substance of it." MPEP § 707.07(f). In the current Office Action, the Office has not responded to Applicants' argument with respect to this feature of the claimed invention.

Applicants reiterate that Ker et al. fails to disclose the claimed structure. This is clearly evidenced by the layout shown in FIG. 11 of Ker et al., and the cross-sectional view of FIG. 11 illustrated in FIG. 9. In particular, from FIG. 11, it appears that any potentially analogous regions in the Ker et al. structure are co-extensive along their corresponding n-wells. In sharp contrast, FIGS. 4-6 of the claimed invention clearly show a second zone (e.g., 17) that "stretches

out only along a part of the periphery of the well" (e.g., 11), and a first zone (e.g., 14, 19) that "is provided along at least another part of this periphery of the well which is free from the said second zone." Accordingly, since Ker et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1 as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants respectively submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald A. D'Alessandro
Reg. No.: 42,456

Date: 7/21/03
Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)

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